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INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Cooperation between ZAFT and TWZ

REPORT

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1. There has been in the past a certain amount of bad feeling between the Central Office for Research and Development (ZAFT) and the Office for Technical-Scientific Cooperation (TWZ), both of which are offices of the East German State Planning Commission. This situation was caused by a kind of rivalry between the two offices with respect to East German relations in the field of research and development with the countries of the East Bloc. According to its charter, TWZ is to handle these relations exclusively. Since the work of TWZ also includes requests made by East Germany to countries of the East Bloc for assistance and cooperation in research and development projects, the border line between the duties of TWZ and ZAFT has never been clearly defined.

2. In order to correct this situation, the East German State Planning Commission in early February 1955 ordered that in the future the two offices should cooperate more closely than in the past. To attain this goal, TWZ was ordered to submit to ZAFT its 1955 plan containing all East German requests to countries of the East Bloc for assistance and cooperation in research and development. This order was issued after ZAFT made a complaint to the State Planning Commission in which it pointed out that ZAFT was entirely unaware of the level of technical development and technical progress in the East Bloc countries, which fact frequently caused it to finance research and development which had already been successfully completed in a friendly country. According to the order of the State Planning Commission, the TWZ plan of East German requests to East Bloc countries will be made available to ZAFT each year from now on. After having received these plans, ZAFT is authorized to make amendments to the plan and insert additional requests.

In addition, direct contact is to be established in the future between the ZAFT officials responsible for certain fields of research and development and the TWZ officials responsible for scientific-technical cooperation with East Bloc countries.

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3. Shortly after the order for closer cooperation between the two offices was issued by the State Planning Commission, Bernd Weinberger, head of TWZ, gave a lecture to all ZAFT personnel explaining the tasks and functions of TWZ and the 1955 East German requests for technical-scientific cooperation with the East Bloc countries. On this occasion, he also promised that in the future ZAFT would obtain all TWZ reports on trips abroad of East German scientists and technicians within the framework of the program for technical-scientific cooperation.

1. [redacted] Comment: This office was formerly called the Office for Scientific-Technical Cooperation (WTZ). Several months ago its name was changed to read as given here and the official abreviation is now TWZ.

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